

In the Claims

Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following list of claims:

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method for treating or preventing an asthmatic event in a hypo-responsive subject having allergic asthma, comprising:

administering to a hypo-responsive subject having allergic asthma a CpG immunostimulatory nucleic acid having the formula

5' N₁X₁X₂CGX₃X₄N₂ 3'

wherein X₁ and X₂ are both purines and X₃ and X₄ are both pyrimidines, and N₁ and N₂ are nucleic acid sequences composed of 0-25 nucleotides each, in an effective amount for treating or preventing an asthmatic event,

wherein the hypo-responsive subject is refractory to an asthma/allergy medicament not a neonate, and

wherein the CpG immunostimulatory nucleic acid is 8-100 nucleotides.

13.-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid has a modified backbone.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the modified backbone is a phosphate modified backbone.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the phosphate modified backbone is a phosphorothioate modified backbone.

18.-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising administering to the hypo-responsive subject an asthma/allergy medicament.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the asthma/allergy medicament is administered in a sub-therapeutic amount.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the asthma/allergy medicament is an asthma medicament.

41. (Withdrawn and Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the asthma/allergy medicament is an allergy medicament.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the asthma/allergy medicament is selected from the group consisting of a steroid and an immunomodulator.

43. (Withdrawn and Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the steroid is selected from the group consisting of beclomethasone, fluticasone, tramcinolone, budesonide and budesonide.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the immunomodulator is selected from the group consisting of an anti-inflammatory agent, a leukotriene antagonist, an IL-4 mutein, a soluble IL-4 receptor, an immunosuppressant, an anti-IL-4 antibody, an IL-4 antagonist, an anti-IL-5 antibody, a soluble IL-13 receptor-Fc fusion protein, an anti-IL-9 antibody, a CCR3 antagonist, a CCR5 antagonist, a VLA-4 inhibitor and a downregulator of IgE.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the downregulator of IgE is an anti-Ig antibody or a fragment thereof.

46. (Withdrawn and Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the immunosuppressant is a tolerizing peptide vaccine.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the asthma/allergy medicament is a medicament selected from the group consisting of a PDE-4 inhibitor, a bronchodilator/beta-2 agonist, a K⁺ channel opener, a VLA-4 antagonist, a neurokin antagonist, a thromboxane A2 synthesis inhibitor, xanthanine, an arachidonic acid antagonist, a 5 lipoxygenase inhibitor, a thromboxane A2 receptor antagonist, a thromboxane A2 antagonist, an inhibitor of 5-lipox activation protein and a protease inhibitor.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the bronchodilator/beta-2 agonist is selected from the group consisting of salmeterol, salbutamol, terbutaline, D2522/formoterol, fenoterol and orciprenaline.

49. (Withdrawn and Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the asthma/allergy medicament is a medicament selected from the group consisting of an anti-histamine and a prostaglandin inducer.

50. (Withdrawn and Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the anti-histamine is selected from the group consisting of loratadine, cetirizine, buclizine, a ceterizine analogue, fexofenadine, terfenadine, desloratadine, norastemizole, epinastine, ebastine, ebastine, astemizole, levocabastine, azelastine, tranilast, terfenadine, mizolastine, betastastine, CS 560 and HSR 609.

51. (Withdrawn and Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the prostaglandin inducer is S-5751.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is administered concurrently with the asthma/allergy medicament.

53. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein X₁X₂ are GA.

54. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein X₃X₄ are TT.